

## GENERAL NOTES

Conducted by M. H. Shwenk

**Notes on Some Iowa and South Dakota Birds.**—We found large numbers of Lark Buntings (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) in and near Gitchie Manito State Park, in the northwest corner of Iowa, this year, (1927), during the breeding season. We also had the pleasure of photographing another western bird, the Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto cunicularia hypogaea*), near Hartley. There is a large colony of the Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon lunifrons lunifrons*) near Dell Rapids, South Dakota. They are accessible for photographing.—F. L. R. AND MARY ROBERTS, *Spirit Lake, Iowa*.

**A Diving Spotted Sandpiper.**—While collecting at Delevan Lake, Wisconsin, May 28, 1926, I was surprised to have a crippled Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*) dive as I attempted to retrieve it. The water was very clear, and I could see the sandpiper swimming under the surface by the use of its wings only, its feet sticking straight out behind, and its neck fully extended. After swimming for about twenty feet, at a depth of from two to three feet, it then started to come to the surface, but saw me and started down again with renewed speed. The water became too deep for me to follow, so I returned to the bank to await developments. The bird finally came to the surface out of gun range and fully sixty feet from where it first dived. The wind then caught it, as it was beyond the shelter of the trees, and it took to wing, apparently none the worse for the experience.—EARL G. WRIGHT, *Chicago Academy of Sciences, Chicago, Ill.*

**The European Starling in Kentucky.**—The European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) has apparently become established in the Blue Grass Region of Kentucky. The first record for the region was obtained by Mr. Lucien Beckner at Winchester in 1920, but this must have been a solitary individual, since no others were seen for five years. In 1925 the bird was seen in Clark County by V. K. Dodge, and in 1926 it was observed in Versailles by Dr. A. S. Hendrick, in Nicholasville by P. T. Bronaugh, and in Lexington by H. M. Minor. Meanwhile it had appeared in the western part of the state and was reported in 1925 by Dr. M. Y. Marshall from Henderson County. In the fall of 1927 it was observed regularly in Lexington, where several small flocks are now spending the winter.—W. D. FUNKHOUSER, *University of Kentucky, Lexington, Ky.*

**A Bird "Life List."**—The recent editorial suggestion (WILSON BULLETIN, xxxix, p. 231) of a "life list" took my eye, so I ran through the check list (1910) and counted approximately 500 species and subspecies on my "life list." I then ran through to eliminate the subspecies, and found I had 432 species as follows: Pygopodes, 26; Longipennes, 32; Tubinares, 11; Steganopodes, 17; Anseres, 45; Herodiones, 14; Paludicolae, 10; Gallinae, 11; Columbidae, 5; Raptores, 29; Coccoygcs, 5; Pici, 13; Macrochires, 8; Limicolae, 45; and Passeres, 163.

I find that I am especially low on Passeres, for there are many of the local warblers that I must have observed that I have forgotten about. I am sure I can get a dozen or more new to the above list, this spring. I have collected most of the large forms. I am just wondering how my "life list" would compare with that of other working ornithologists. I know that my small bird list does not come anywhere near par, but believe I have a good list of the water and shore birds.—ALFRED M. BAILEY, *Chicago Academy of Sciences, Chicago, Ill.*